Tennyson - Mariana in the moated grange

Vrsta: Seminarski | Broj strana: 10 | Nivo: Filološki

During all these years of studying I read many poems. Many poets techniques, melodies, etc. However, I find that only two poems touched my heart in its essence – the first one is "jenny kissed me" by Leigh Hunt and the second one is "Lady of Shalot" written by lord Alfred Tennyson.

But, let us start from the very beginning. Who is Tennyson?

This poet, often regarded as the chief representative of the Victorian age in poetry was born on August 5, 1809 in Somersby, Lincolnshire. His father, George Clayton Tennyson, a clergyman and rector, suffered from depression and was notoriously absentminded. Alfred began writing poetry at an early age in the style of Lord Byron.

After spending four unhappy years in school he was tutored at home. Tennyson then studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he joined the literary club "The Apostles" and met Arthur Hallam, who became his closest friend. Later on, the death of Hallam marked "a point of no return" for Tennyson – he was deeply hurt because of the death of his closest friend.

In 1992, England celebrated an important event - the Tennyson centenary. The opening ceremony began with a quotation from Arthur Hallam's letter to William Gladstone (the future prime minister)... "the greatest poet of our generation, perhaps of our country".

Tennyson's poetry has spoken to intellectuals, to aesthetes, and to ordinary readers for more than 150 years. He gave new a dimension to poetry. His was a unique career and it shows a synthesis of a highly individual creative artist and the culture of his age. Some of his works are:

"Poems, chiefly lyrical" (1830)

"Poems" (1833)

"Idylls of the king" (1859-1885)

"Queen Mary" (1875)

"Harold" (1876) etc.

Tennyson died at Aldwort on October 6, 1892 and was buried in the Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey. His two poems –which I am about to analyze – "The Lady of Shalot" and "Mariana in the moated grange" give two life options which are to be chosen by every human being in his/her life.

Mariana and Lady of Shalot are both in castle, they are both alone and they both long for love. But, in spite of all these similarities – they are very different persons. In my opinion, the analysis of these two poems should be based on giving the essential differences between them rather than comparing the similarities.

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